

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A signal convertor for modulating or demodulating an input signal  $x(t)$ , comprising:
  - a synthesizer for generating wideband mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , which vary irregularly over time, where  $\phi_1 * \phi_2$  has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated;
  - a first mixer coupled to said synthesizer for mixing said input signal  $x(t)$  with said mixing signal  $\phi_1$  to generate an output signal  $x(t) \phi_1$ ; and
  - a second mixer coupled to said synthesizer and to the output of said first mixer for mixing said signal  $x(t) \phi_1$  with said mixing signal  $\phi_2$  to generate an output signal  $x(t) \phi_1 \phi_2$ .
2. The signal convertor of claim 1, where said synthesizer comprises:
  - a synthesizer for generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , where  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  have different patterns.
3. The signal convertor of claim 2 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
  - a synthesizer for generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , where neither  $\phi_1$  nor  $\phi_2$  have significant power at the frequency of said local oscillator signal being emulated.
4. The signal convertor of claim 3 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
  - a synthesizer for generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , where  $\phi_1 * \phi_1 * \phi_2$  does not have a significant amount of power within the bandwidth of said input signal  $x(t)$  at baseband, thereby reducing adverse effects of local oscillator leakage.
5. The signal convertor of claim 4 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
  - a synthesizer for generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , where  $\phi_2 * \phi_2$  does not have a significant amount of power within the bandwidth of said input signal  $x(t)$  at baseband, thereby reducing adverse effects of local oscillator leakage.
6. The signal convertor of claim 1 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:
  - a synthesizer for randomly generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ .
7. The signal convertor of claim 1 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:

10034730 123901

a synthesizer for pseudo-randomly generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ .

8. The signal convertor of claim 7 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:  
a synthesizer which can shape the spectrum of said mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ .

9. The signal convertor of claim 8 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:  
a delta-sigma block for generating said mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ .

10. The signal convertor of claim 9 wherein the control signal and oversampling  
rate of the delta-sigma block vary with time.

11. The signal convertor of claim 7 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:  
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , where said mixing signals  $\phi_1$   
and  $\phi_2$  can change with time in order to reduce errors.

12. The signal convertor of claim 7, further comprising:  
a filter for removing unwanted signal components from said  $x(t)$   $\phi_1$  signal.

13. The signal convertor of claim 7, wherein said mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are  
digital waveforms.

14. The signal convertor of claim 7, wherein said mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are  
square waveforms.

15. The signal convertor of claim 7, further comprising:  
a local oscillator coupled to said synthesizer for providing a signal having a  
frequency that is an integral multiple of the desired mixing frequency.

16. The signal convertor of claim 7, wherein said synthesizer uses a single time  
base to generate both mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ .

17. The signal convertor of claim 7 wherein said synthesizer further comprises:  
a synthesizer for generating mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , wherein  $\phi_1$  is at a much higher  
frequency than  $\phi_2$ , thereby reducing the amount of  $1/f$  noise in the output, at  
base band.

10034730 10034730

18. The signal convertor as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second time-varying signals are periodic functions of time.
19. The signal convertor as claimed in claim 7, wherein said synthesizer comprises:  
a synthesizer for generating time-varying signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , where both  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are operating at a much higher frequency than said local oscillator signal being emulated.
20. A signal convertor comprising two signal paths as claimed in claim 7, wherein said two sets of mixing signals are 90 degrees out of phase ( $\phi_{1Q}$  and  $\phi_{2Q}$  or  $\phi_{1I}$  and  $\phi_{2I}$ ), thereby generating in-phase and quadrature components of said input signal  $x(t)$ .
21. The synthesizer of claim 7 comprising:  
one or more additional signal generators for producing one or more additional time-varying signals;  
where the product of all of said time-varying signals has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated, and none of said all of said time-varying signals has significant power at the frequency of said local oscillator signal being emulated.
22. A method of converting the frequency of a signal  $x(t)$ , comprising the steps of:  
generating wideband mixing signals  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$ , which vary irregularly over time, where  $\phi_1 * \phi_2$  has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated;  
mixing said input signal  $x(t)$  with said mixing signal  $\phi_1$  to generate an output signal  $x(t) \phi_1$ ; and  
mixing said signal  $x(t) \phi_1$  with said mixing signal  $\phi_2$  to generate an output signal  $x(t) \phi_1 \phi_2$ .

10034730-12301  
T0322T-02/HE00T

23. A synthesizer for generating signals to be input to successive mixers for modulating or demodulating an input signal  $x(t)$ , said synthesizer comprising:  
a first signal generator for producing a first wideband mixing signal  $\phi_1$  which varies irregularly over time; and  
a second signal generator for producing a second wideband signal  $\phi_2$  which varies irregularly over time;  
where  $\phi_1 * \phi_2$  has significant power at the frequency of a local oscillator signal being emulated.

24. An integrated circuit comprising the device of claim 1.

25. A computer readable memory medium, storing computer software code in a hardware development language for fabrication of an integrated circuit comprising the device of claim 1.

26. A computer data signal embodied in a output wave, said computer data signal comprising computer software code in a hardware development language for fabrication of an integrated circuit comprising the device of claim 1.

10034730 10034730